



New Year Update from the Chair of the USA Alumni Society

I'd like to wish you a happy and prosperous 2017 on behalf of the USA Alumni Society and the Alumni Relations team at the University. We hope you all enjoyed the holidays, as long ago as they now seem. This year we're looking forward to a number of upcoming events, visits and initiatives and would like to share some of our plans.

US Alumni Ambassador Program

We are creating a new role for alumni who would like to actively participate in the alumni community and connect with the University. We are looking for volunteers who would like to take on the role of Alumni Ambassador.

What would an Alumni Ambassador do?

The role could include:

- Being the local contact for alumni in a particular city or area of the USA
- Being the local contact for students who are leaving the US to start at Birmingham
- Welcoming returning alumni and introducing them to the local alumni community
- Liaising with visiting University staff and academics
- Offering industry expertise to the wider alumni community
- Assisting in coordinating an event in your city around the Global Alumni Gathering in May each year

We will provide as much support as possible to ensure the success of this new role. Since this is the first year of the program we will closely monitor its effectiveness for both the Ambassadors and the alumni group. We envision that each Ambassador's term will be for one year to be reviewed and renewed annually if so desired. Please let us know if you would like to hear more about the program.

Visits

New York and New Orleans

This month Jane Bower, International Officer from the Alumni Relations team is visiting the US for the first time. Jane will begin in New Orleans and is hosting a gathering there on Thursday 19 January. After New Orleans, Jane is coming to New York for a number of meetings and we will have an informal alumni get together on Tuesday 24 January. For more info, email [Jane](#).

Boston and Washington DC

As in previous years, we will have a visit from academics in the College of Social Sciences who are in the US with groups of students for a Model UN and Model NATO conference.

Dr Adam Quinn, Senior Lecturer in International Politics, will be holding a get together with students from the Model UN conference at the {TBC , in Boston} on **Thursday 16 February**.

Mark Webber, Professor of International Politics and Head of the School of Government and Society, will be holding an informal get together with students from the Model NATO conference at the Washington Plaza Hotel on **Friday 17 February**.

This is a nice opportunity to meet some of our current students and chat to our academics.

More details for both events can be found [online](#).

Global Alumni Gathering

As you may know, last year saw the launch of the Global Alumni Gathering. There were more than 20 events held around the world during the same week, which included dinners, brunches, happy hours and neighbors getting together. This year the gathering will be the week of 22 May to celebrate the founding of the University by Joseph Chamberlain in 1900. We'll be reaching out to the various groups (and Alumni Ambassadors!) around the US to help in arranging some events.

October Annual Meeting

The 2017 USA Alumni Gathering will be in October. This year we will be holding the event in San Diego on Saturday October 21st and will send out more details as plans come together.

Social Media

If you're on Facebook, please connect with our [USA Alumni Society](#) page to see updates from the US and around the world. We're also looking for a volunteer to help increase our presence on social media and help maintain our channels. If you are interested, please email [Jane](#).

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2017 and hoping you'll be involved with University of Birmingham in some way.

Dave Drinkwater (BSc, Chemical Engineering '87) Chair, USA Alumni Society

Brian Beeston (PhD, Material Sciences '65) National Coordinator, USA Alumni Society

James Stamp (PhD, Biological Sciences '84), Treasurer, USA Alumni Society

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